



Central Vermont Public Service

NEWS RELEASE

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Eaglecam offers look into lives of baby eaglets

ADDISON – Central Vermont Public Service activated its new eaglecam today, giving bird lovers an inside look at the daily lives of two eaglets being raised by the Vermont Bald Eagle Restoration Initiative.

The birds can be seen live on the Internet through the project's website, www.cvps.com/eagles.

“The chicks are eating well and growing steadily,” CVPS spokesman Steve Costello said. “Through the webcam, people can check their progress and track their growth.”

The Vermont Bald Eagle Restoration Initiative, announced in March, is a five-partner effort to restore a breeding bald eagle population in Vermont, and ultimately remove the birds from the state's endangered species list. Partners include the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Federation, Outreach for Earth Stewardship and CVPS. CVPS designed and created the project website. Federal funding for the project was provided through the efforts of Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vt.

The webcam is in an 8-by-8-foot hack box, a protective enclosure that provides the birds with some shelter, where they are being fed and cared for by volunteers at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison. The birds were captured by state and federal wildlife officials in Maryland and brought to Vermont earlier this month.

More eaglets are expected to be brought to Vermont next month to be raised at Dead Creek, with six to nine more in 2005 and 2006.

The project website include details of the project, each partners' role, recovery efforts and the history and physiology of bald eagles.

The birds were almost wiped out by loss of habitat, hunting for feathers for use in fashion, insecticides, bounties and reductions in food supplies due to over hunting in the 19th and 20th centuries. Bald eagles now breed in every state in the continental United States – except Vermont.

“Our hope is that through this project, outreach efforts and the webcam, we can build a better understanding of the role eagles and predatory birds play in our ecosystem, and the importance of protecting and preserving endangered species,” said Margaret Fowle, a wildlife biologist and coordinator of raptor and waterfowl recovery for the NWF.